# EFFECTIVE VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT

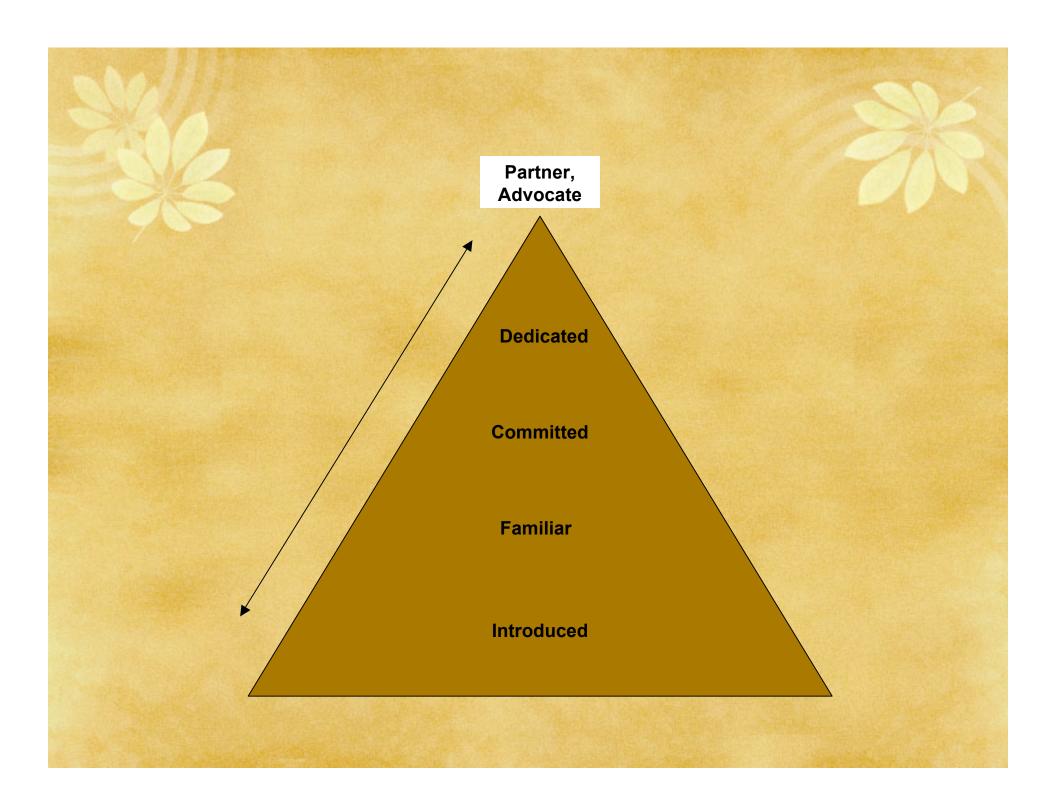
## RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

Achieving the PEAK volunteer program

It's all about relationships....

# How do volunteers interact with us?

- What is their first impression of the organization they are offering to support?
- The first steps of a relationship lead to getting to know one another
- Relationships, by nature, change......





- They don't know you you don't know them
- Market They find/respond to you because:
  - **You fit their time need: i.e. Saturday**
  - They heard a key word that resonated ("feed, "help," "donate," etc) but have little understanding of what that means in detail
  - You can probably fit their other agenda(s): service hours by a deadline, etc.
- They are watching your words and actions for disconnect
- Are willing to invest time with you as they get to know you

# Introduced – the first step

# Largest number of people and/or groups in your program

- Most will enter through a project or other short term, limited task
- Have the least amount of in-depth information about what you do
- Usually respond to the issue: environmental protection, trail upkeep, etc.
- Need to feel useful at what they are doing context, feedback, and "thanks" critical
- Need processes and steps preplanned and instructions clear lots of how to's decided as most activities are action oriented



Partner, Advocate

**Dedicated** 

Committed

**Familiar** 

#### Introduced

Employee groups Church groups School groups Scout groups Individuals responding to ad Individuals whose group falters College students w/ required service

**Court ordered** 

<u>Needs</u>: context of need, project purpose, Reflection, connection (info), how to's



- Have gotten to know you somewhat (corporate culture)
- Still fit their time needs
- Have understanding of what you do as they can see them: invasive species removal, donations collected, etc.
- Have decided you do what you say you do
- Are still willing to invest time with you

# Familiar – the repeats

# Second largest number of people and/or groups in your program

- Market They've interacted with you before
- Have more knowledge of how you relate to the issue (because you informed them the first time.)
- Have understanding of what you do as they can see them: trail cleanup so users have a safer experience, piles of donations collected go to people in shelters, etc.
- Felt useful the last time they were there (or, were interested enough to give you a second chance.)
- Willing to work with you to give feedback on processes and help improve them
- Willing to help the newbies



Partner, Advocate

Dedicated

Committed

#### **Familiar**

Individuals and/or groups that have volunteered on a previous project

Needs: more info on service, outcomes, connection (info), how to's more complex.

# Committed (friend)

- **Understand and are comfortable with your corporate** culture
- Still fit their time needs, but are willing to adjust slightly when needed
- Have understanding of what you do on a deeper level: a "picture" of why outdoor maintenance work is needed, why donations are needed and who they go to, etc.
- See that your words and actions are congruent and recommend you to others
- Are still willing to invest time with you and perhaps increase amount or quality

# Committed: starting down the road to Leadership

- Make your projects a priority in their time commitments will shift a few things
- Have understanding of what you do on a deeper level: a "picture" of why we are pulling weeds, why we are fixing trails, why donations are needed and who they go to, etc.
- Mow a lot about the project and are willing to head up an area/committee/etc.
- Recruits others to help personal recommendation
- Understands how projects fit into overall services
- **Trains others to carry out projects/assignments**

## Who are they?

Partner, Advocate

Dedicated

#### Committed

Previous group leaders, Participate in planning process

Needs: how it fits, who are the players, why we do this.

**Familiar** 

Introduced



- Are very familiar with the organization, warts and all, and are comfortable with that
- Will adjust other areas of life to "fit" their commitment to your organization
- Understand your mission, have a clear picture of who you serve, and are able to explain how the two connect to others
- Actively recruit others' time, money, or other resources for your benefit
- Are willing to spend lots of quality time on your behalf or involved in your activities

# Dedicated: those who lead

- Organizes the project or one large area of the project
- Makes the project a priority: takes time off, schedules other activities around it
- Can explain your mission, have a clear picture of who you serve, and are able to explain how the two connect to others
- Actively recruits others' time, money, or other resources for your benefit
- Are willing to spend lots of quality time on your behalf or involved in your activities
- **Trains other group leaders**

# Who are they?

Partner, Advocate

### **Dedicated**

Experience over a variety of projects and programs

Needs: part of planning process, "expert" role, biggest picture

Committed

**Familiar** 

Introduced

# Partner and/or Advocate

- Will participate in political process to support your program: committee hearings, public input process, etc.
- © Can be called upon as needed with personal or professional endorsement
- Can offer relevant constructive criticism or feedback for the betterment of the organization
- Will stand beside you when others feel it's too risky

## Who are they?

Partner,
Advocate

Knows organization in depth and scope, shares responsibility, visions are aligned

Needs: Appropriate recognition, Information sharing, personal connection.

Dedicated

Committed

Familiar

Introduced



### What is our strategy?



Who are we working with now?

Where are they on the pyramid?

Where do we want to go?



- S Volunteers and the Law
- Evaluation of: Volunteers themselves, the impact of volunteer work to your programs, the Volunteer Manager
- Value of Volunteer work how to best quantify

# MEASURING THE IMPACT OF VOLUNTEERS

- **3** Bodies and hours
- Resources upgraded, protected, etc.
- **Quantity** and quality of programs staffed
- 3 Qualitative thank you notes, etc.
- Not what the organization has saved, but what has been accomplished above and beyond current funding levels